

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a) an integrally moulded unitary master frame including upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and opposed first and second vertical jamb members extending between the upper and lower horizontal master frame members; and

b) an integrally moulded unitary sash frame slidably mounted within the master frame, the sash frame including upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, and a pair of opposed side members extending vertically between the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members,

wherein the master frame further comprises a mullion defined by a vertical member extending contiguously from, and vertically between, the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, the mullion being integrally moulded with the master frame, the mullion having a vent side directed towards the first vertical jamb member and a fixed side directed towards the second vertical jamb member, and wherein the integrally moulded mullion, as viewed in horizontal cross-section, has a profile consisting essentially of a plurality of wall segments including parallel wall segments and perpendicular wall segments that extend, respectively, parallel to, and perpendicular to, the direction of sliding of the sash frame, the wall segments having a generally uniform wall thickness and the

mullion being free of internal enclosed cavities to facilitate injection moulding of the master frame.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 2 wherein at least two of the wall segments are positioned on the fixed side of the mullion and cooperate to provide ~~is provided with~~ integrally moulded glazing support details adapted to support a fixed glazing unit between the fixed side of the mullion and the second vertical jamb member.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 2 wherein at least two of the wall segments are positioned on the vent side of the mullion and cooperate to provide ~~is provided with~~ integrally moulded screen support details adapted to support a screen between the vent side of the mullion and the first vertical jamb member.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 2 wherein the master frame and the sash frame comprise cooperating channels and projections for supporting the sash frame within the master frame, and wherein the projections and channels are integrally moulded with the respective sash frame and master frame.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 5 wherein the projections comprise vertically directed tongues projecting towards the sash frame from each of the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and the channels comprise grooves provided in the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, the grooves adapted to receive the tongues in sliding engagement.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a) an integrally moulded unitary master frame including upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and opposed first and second vertical jamb members extending between the upper and lower horizontal master frame members; and

b) an integrally moulded unitary sash frame slidably mounted within the master frame, the sash frame including upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, and a pair of opposed side members extending vertically between the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members,

wherein the master frame further comprises a mullion defined by a vertical member extending contiguously from, and vertically between, the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, the mullion being integrally moulded with the master frame, the mullion having a vent side directed towards the first vertical jamb member and a fixed side directed towards the second vertical jamb member,

wherein the master frame and the sash frame comprise cooperating channels and projections for supporting the sash frame within the master frame, and wherein the projections and channels are integrally moulded with the respective sash frame and master frame,

wherein the projections comprise vertically directed tongues projecting towards the sash frame from each of the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and the channels comprise grooves provided in the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, the grooves adapted to receive the tongues in sliding engagement, and

~~The frame assembly of claim 6~~ wherein the upper horizontal master frame member comprises a first sash frame interlacing configuration providing a first vertical clearance between vertically aligned surfaces of the upper horizontal master frame member and the upper horizontal sash frame member, so that the

sash frame can be lifted up relative to the master frame for installation and removal, the vertically aligned surfaces between which the vertical clearance is provided being integrally molded with the respective master and sash frames.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 7 wherein the first sash frame interlacing configuration extends longitudinally along a portion of the length of the upper horizontal master frame member sufficient to accommodate the length of the upper horizontal sash frame member.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 8 wherein the first sash frame interlacing configuration includes a first cavity integrally moulded in the upper horizontal master frame member, the first cavity having a cavity length that traverses the mullion, generally extending along the upper horizontal master frame member from the vent side to the fixed side of the mullion, the first cavity in an as-moulded and operating condition of the master frame and sash frame being open towards the lower horizontal master frame member, and the first cavity receiving therein an upper portion of the sash frame when the sash frame is lifted up relative to the master frame for installation and removal.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 9 wherein the first cavity is positioned generally at a longitudinal end of the first sash frame interlacing configuration.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 10 wherein at least one of the longitudinal end and a second opposing longitudinal end of the first sash frame interlacing configuration is defined by a vertically projecting shoulder extending downward from the upper horizontal master frame member to prevent lift-up of the sash frame relative to the master frame when the sash frame is not aligned with the first sash frame interlacing configuration.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 7 wherein the lower horizontal master frame member is provided with a second sash frame

interlacing configuration so that the master frame can be inverted to reverse the relative positions of the vent side and fixed side, the second sash frame interlacing configuration providing a second vertical clearance between vertically aligned surfaces of the lower horizontal master frame member and the lower horizontal sash frame member, so that the sash frame can be lifted up relative to the master frame for installation and removal of the sash frame with respect to the master frame when the master frame is installed in the inverted position.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 12 wherein the second sash frame interlacing configuration comprises a second cavity integrally moulded in the lower horizontal master frame member, the second cavity traversing the mullion, generally extending along the lower horizontal master frame member from the vent side to the fixed side of the mullion, and the second cavity being open towards the upper horizontal master frame member.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 13 wherein the sash frame is provided with a glider element that is adapted to bear against an upper surface of the lower horizontal master frame member.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 14 wherein the glider element has a height that is adapted to take up the second vertical clearance between the lower horizontal master frame member and the lower horizontal sash frame member.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 15 wherein the glider element is selectably attachable to either one of the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members to accommodate installation of the master frame in the inverted position.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a) an integrally moulded unitary master frame including upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and opposed first and second vertical jamb members extending between the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and a mullion defined by a vertical member extending contiguously from, and vertically between, the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, the mullion being integrally moulded with the master frame, the mullion having a vent side directed towards the first vertical jamb member and a fixed side directed towards the second vertical jamb member;

b) an integrally moulded unitary sash frame slidably mounted within the master frame, the sash frame including upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, and a pair of opposed side members extending vertically between the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, the sash frame being slidable between open and closed positions within the master frame; and

c) seal support elements integrally moulded with the master frame for securing seals to the master frame, the seals adapted to engage the sash frame for inhibiting penetration of fluid from an exterior environment to an interior environment when the sash frame is in the closed position, and wherein the integrally moulded mullion, as viewed in horizontal cross-section, has a profile consisting essentially of a plurality of wall segments including parallel wall segments and perpendicular wall segments that extend, respectively, parallel to, and perpendicular to, the direction of sliding of the sash frame, the wall segments having a generally uniform wall thickness and the mullion being free of internal enclosed cavities to facilitate injection moulding of the master frame.

Claims 18-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 17, further comprising: ~~A frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:~~

~~(a) an integrally moulded unitary master frame including upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and opposed first and second vertical jamb members extending between the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and a mullion defined by a vertical member extending contiguously from, and vertically between, the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, the mullion being integrally moulded with the master frame, the mullion having a vent side directed towards the first vertical jamb member and a fixed side directed towards the second vertical jamb member;~~

~~b) an integrally moulded unitary sash frame slidably mounted within the master frame and movable between open and closed positions, the sash frame including upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, and a pair of opposed side members extending vertically between the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members;~~

~~e) a)~~ at least one fluid penetration flow path extending between an external and internal environment through the frame assembly when the sash frame is in the closed position; and

~~d) b)~~ a weather buffering mechanism provided in the at least one fluid penetration flow path and adapted to, in cooperation with said seals secured to the seal support elements, inhibit the penetration of fluid from the exterior environment to the interior environment along the fluid penetration flow path, the weather buffering mechanism including a weather buffering chamber disposed in the at least one fluid penetration flow path and extending between an exterior seal disposed upstream of the buffering chamber and an interior seal disposed downstream of the buffering chamber.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 21 wherein the buffering chamber has an exterior drain for draining liquid out of the buffering chamber and away from the interior seal.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 22 wherein the weather buffering mechanism further comprises an air reservoir substantially separated from the buffering chamber by a cover member, the cover member comprising apertures therethrough, the air reservoir in fluid communication with the buffering chamber through the apertures to provide a source of generally dry air to be drawn into the buffering chamber.

Claim 24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The frame assembly of claim 6, wherein the tongues and grooves are integrally moulded with the respective master and sash frames, and wherein the tongues and grooves slidably support the sash and prevent lateral displacement of the sash away from the master frame when sliding the sash to any position between the first and second vertical jamb members.

Claim 27. (New) The frame assembly of claim 17 wherein the master frame and the sash frame comprise cooperating channels and projections for supporting the sash frame within the master frame, and wherein the projections and channels are integrally moulded with the respective sash frame and master frame, and wherein the projections comprise vertically directed tongues projecting towards the sash frame from each of the upper and lower horizontal master frame members, and the channels comprise grooves provided in the upper and lower horizontal sash frame members, the grooves adapted to receive the tongues in sliding engagement.

Claim 28. (New) The frame assembly of claim 27, wherein the tongues and grooves are integrally moulded with the respective master and sash frames, and wherein the tongues and grooves slidably support the sash and prevent lateral

displacement of the sash away from the master frame when sliding the sash to any position between the first and second vertical jamb members.

Claim 29. (New) The frame assembly of claim 28 wherein the upper horizontal master frame member comprises a first sash frame interlacing configuration providing a first vertical clearance between vertically aligned surfaces of the upper horizontal master frame member and the upper horizontal sash frame member, so that the sash frame can be lifted up relative to the master frame for installation and removal, the vertically aligned surfaces between which the vertical clearance is provided being integrally molded with the respective master and sash frames.

Claim 30. (New) The frame assembly of claim 29 wherein the first sash frame interlacing configuration extends longitudinally along a portion of the length of the upper horizontal master frame member sufficient to accommodate the length of the upper horizontal sash frame member.

Claim 31. (New) The frame assembly of claim 30 wherein the first sash frame interlacing configuration includes a first cavity integrally moulded in the upper horizontal master frame member, the first cavity having a cavity length that traverses the mullion, generally extending along the upper horizontal master frame member from the vent side to the fixed side of the mullion, the first cavity in an as-moulded and operating condition of the master frame and sash frame being open towards the lower horizontal master frame member, and the first cavity receiving therein an upper portion of the sash frame when the sash frame is lifted up relative to the master frame for installation and removal.